

VZCZCXR08109
OO RUEHQU
DE RUEHPU #1604 2411753
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 291753Z AUG 06
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3911
INFO RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 1200
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 1042
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL
RUCOWCV/CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FL//OLE/OI//

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 001604

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR
DRL
S/CRS
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS AID FOR LAC/CAR
INR/IAA (BEN-YEHUDA)
TREASURY FOR MAUREEN WAFER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/27/2011

TAGS: PGOV KCRM KJUS ASEC PINR HA

SUBJECT: FL MILITANT RENE CIVIL ARRESTED

REF: A. PAP 1561
1B. PAP 1522
1C. FBIS LAP 20060827057001

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Thomas C. Tighe for reason 1.4(b).).

¶1. (C) The Haitian National Police (HNP) on Friday, August 25 arrested Fanmi Lavalas (FL) militant Rene Civil in the upper-class Petionville neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, charging him with carrying an unlicensed firearm, driving a stolen car, and "association with malefactors." Government prosecutor Claudy Gassant (ref A) arraigned Civil on Monday, August 28 and remanded him to prison to await a judicial hearing. Noted Lavalas attorney Mario Joseph represented Civil. He may now petition a judge for Civil's release on bail. Joseph also represented three recently released Lavalas activists, including Annette "So Anne" Auguste (ref B). Since his return from the Dominican Republic in May, Civil is widely believed to have been attempting to generate street protests and disorder among loyalists of former President Aristide, with little result so far. Presidential Advisor Robert Manuel told the Ambassador in early August that he believed that Civil was encouraging gang leaders in Cite Soleil to take a hard line with him in negotiations over disarmament; thus Civil was one of the factors in the failure of those early discussions.

¶2. (SBU) The Police report that Civil was arrested with two other individuals. Police sources indicate that the driver of the vehicle, Widlin Julmice, is member of the HNP's "Special Guard Unit of the National Palace" (USGPN) who deserted his post in December 2005. Julmice remains in custody and subject to discipline by the HNP. Sources indicate that an informant (another auto thief in HNP custody) alerted the HNP to Civil's possession of the car, reported stolen in the Dominican Republic in 2000.

¶3. (C) Comment: Much to post's dismay, FL Senator Rudy Heriveaux publicly condemned the arrest, noting that it came at a sensitive time and questioning the seriousness of the charges. Heriveaux is a close embassy contact who has stressed in conversations with emboffs that he and other FL moderates in parliament are opposed to Civil and the FL's militant faction. Post will raise Heriveaux's defense of Civil with him at the first opportunity. We see no evidence

that other FL militants calling for Civil's immediate release can make good on their threats to "block the country" (ref C). As reported earlier (ref B), Civil has been at large since May and been unable to rally any significant number of supporters to his cause.

¶4. (C) Comment continued. The GoH's swift action on this case is encouraging. Gassant's arraignment of Civil within one working day of his arrest marks a striking new efficiency (at least in this case) of the justice system. Equally encouraging is that the HNP were apparently able to turn a tip from an informant into a quick arrest.

TIGHE